

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A removable stent comprising:
a plurality of annular segments arranged axially successively and interconnected to form a tubular support frame;
one or more deflection elements coupled to at least one of the plurality of annular segments and positioned on a circumference of the tubular support frame;
a thread at least partially encircling the tubular support frame outside of the circumference of the tubular support frame and positioned between annular segments, the thread having a first end and second end that are each guided by one of the one or more deflection elements from the outside of the tubular support frame into a position inside the tubular support frame;
a connector positioned inside the tubular support frame to securely couple together the first and second thread ends, wherein displacement of the connector relative to the stent along a longitudinal axis of the stent results in contraction of at least two of the plurality of annular segments.

2. (Previously presented): The stent according to claim 1, wherein the first and second ends of the thread are guided by the same deflection element.

3. (Previously presented): The stent according to claim 1, wherein the first end of the thread is guided by a first of the one or more deflection elements and the second end of the thread is guided by a second of the one or more deflection elements, wherein the first deflection element and second deflection element are positioned at an interval from one another.

4. (Previously presented): The stent according to claim 1, wherein the one or more deflection elements are provided on an end-side annular segment, viewed in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the stent.

5. (Previously presented): The stent according to claim 1, wherein the one or more deflection elements are positioned on an inner side, facing the middle of the stent, of the annular segment.

6. (Previously presented): The stent according to claim 3, wherein the first deflection element is arranged on the inner side, facing the middle of the stent, of an annular segment and the second deflection element is arranged on the outer side of the annular segment.

7. (Previously presented): The stent according to claim 3, wherein the first deflection element is provided on an end-side annular segment, viewed in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the stent, and the second deflection element is provided on an adjacent annular segment.

8. (Previously presented): The stent according to claim 1, wherein the connector comprises a material visible in x-rays.

9. (Previously presented): The stent according to claim 1, further comprising additional guide elements coupled to the tubular support frame.

10. (Previously presented): The stent according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of annular segments are formed by struts that follow one another in an endless, corrugated manner, and wherein adjacent annular segments are coupled by connector struts.

11. (Previously presented): The stent according to claim 10, wherein each connector strut comprises a longitudinal section running substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stent and comprises a strut section aligned transversely to the connector strut and configured in one of a U shape and a V shape.

12. (New): A removable stent comprising:

a plurality of annular segments arranged axially successively and interconnected to form a tubular support frame;

one or more deflection elements coupled to at least one of the plurality of annular segments and positioned on a circumference of the tubular support frame;

a thread encircling the tubular support frame outside of the circumference of the tubular support frame, the thread having a first end and second end that are each guided by one of the one or more deflection elements from the outside of the tubular support frame into a position inside the tubular support frame;

a connector positioned inside the tubular support frame to fixedly couple together the first and second thread ends, wherein the connector is formed of a material distinct from the thread and displacement of the connector relative to the stent along a longitudinal axis of the stent results in contraction of at least two of the plurality of annular segments.

13. (New): The stent according to claim 12, wherein the thread is positioned between annular.

14. (New): The stent according to claim 12, wherein the connector comprises a material visible in x-rays.